Vol. IV. Numb. 19.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on a Libel intended to be Publiſh'd in Southwark *againſt the Election, in order to Viliſie and Aſperſe the Old Members. King* Charles *the Second's Opinion of* Tacking. *Chancellor* Finch's *Opinion thereon. Count* Tallard *a* Tacker.

From Wednesday May the 2d, to Saturday May the 5th, 1705.

Country-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, is it fair to anſwer a Book before 'tis Publiſh'd?

Obſ. Yes, if you can come at the Book.

Country-m. I have got a Printed Paper, that is deſign'd to be Publiſhed againſt the Election in *Southwark*, to *Calumniate* and *Aſperſe* Mr. *Cholmley* and Mr. *Cox*, in order to gain Votes for the *Calves-Head-Juſtice*; pray look it over.

Obſ. I can gueſs who is the Author of this Paper, by the *Lies* and *Nonſenſe* that is in it, tho' I know the Copy was ſent to the *Printers* written in three ſeveral Hands; but 'tis ſtrange that a *High-Church Member* ſhould have ſo ſmall a ſhare of Brains, and ſhould dwindle ſo low as Senſe of *Tom Saffold*.

What he ſays of Mr. *Cox* and Mr. *Cholmley*, is ſo very *Invidious*, and the *Matter of Fact* ſo far ſhort of a *Crime*, that the *Accuſation* it ſelf is an *Evidence* for 'em, and muſt Juſtifie them in the Sight of all *Honeſt*, *Judicious*, and *Diſcerning Perſons*.

What he, I mean Mr. *Juſtice Calves-Head*, ſays of me, I ſhall over-look as *Villanous* and *Falſe*, and can aſſure his Worſhip, that he is far beneath my Notice in any Reſpect; but as he is an Enemy to our *Conſtitution*, and the *Peace* of our *Country*. He writes himſelf *Gentleman* and *Eſquire*, but how came he by theſe Titles? Not, I hope, from Selling *Album Græcum* in the *Burrough*, or Trading with thoſe *Infamous Wretches* the *Stock-Jobbers* in *Exchange-Alley*; we ought to pay Reſpect to his *Commiſſion*, not out of Reſpect to the Perſon that wears it, but out of Reſpect to the Perſon, whoſe *High Authority* has Stamp'd it; and if this be all he can plead for his *Gentility*, a *Cobler* may be as Worſhipful as himſelf, when once he has wriggl'd himſelf into *Power* as the other has done.

I am no farther concerned for Elections than as they relate to the Good of my Country, I was never a Penny the better for the whole *Burrough of Southwark*; but yet I think it my Duty to adviſe the Inhabitants to be careful in the Choice of ſuch Members as will anſwer the *Pious Deſigns* of Her Majeſty, in the Promoting of *Peace* and *Union*, and preſerving the *Proteſtant Succeſſion*.

Let 'em therefore conſider whether ſuch a Perſon as *John L——de*, who ſaid, *When you have done all, you muſt have the Young Gentleman again*; be a fit Man to Vote in the Houſe againſt *Perkin*, or to Support the *Queen* and *Government*.

As 'tis Publickly known this *Worſhipful Druggiſt* refuſed to take the Oaths, which, in the Opinion of the *Lords*, is a Reaſonable Bar to his being a *Juſtice of the Peace*; ſo let the Electors enquire whether he ever ſubſcrib'd the *Aſſociation*.

And after all the Boaſts of this *Mirour of Juſtice*, let his Electors Judge of his Services done the *Townſhip*, when he has ſo much diſturb'd the *Peace* of his *Neighbours* who are in the Intereſt of the *Queen*, and has only aſſiſted in the Repair of the broken Fortunes of *ROOKS* and other unclean Birds, who have ſet their *Plumes* in order to take their Flight to St. *Germains*.

Country-m. Maſter *Obſervator*, the *Worſhip Juſtice* has got a Siſter that is a Hen of the *Game*, poor Mrs. *Tittle Tattle* ſhe ſpeaks after her Brother, and ſays, *Tho' the* Gentleman *be a* Papiſt *it ſignifies nothing, he is the* Right Heir, *and he muſt not be Cheated of his* Right.

But, Maſter, I have conſidered a Point, and will put you in a way how to be a *Member of Parliament*. An *Obſervator* has been a *Member* before now.

Obſ. Prithee let me hear this Project?

Country-m. In the firſt Place get Money by *Stock-Jobbing*.

Obſ. But I have no Money to Buy *Stock*.

Country-m. No more had'nt others when they began: And therefore get in with ſome Body or other that has the *Orphans Money* in their Hands, or the *Prentices* of *Rich Merchants* that keep their *Maſters Caſh*, to lend you ſome Money, which do Buy *Stock* and Sell it again time enough to keep up the Credit of your *Caſhiers*, and by doing of this, you'll, in a ſhort time, be able to go without *Crutches*.

Obſ. This is a *Nice*, but not a very *Honeſt Project*.

Country-m. Nay, if you talk the Old Story of *Honeſty* you'll never thrive. When you have got Money, then get your ſelf by any means to be a *Juſtice of the Peace*, and a *Parliamenteering Maſter* as faſt as you can, and ſet up againſt your Brother *Stock-Jobber* in *Southwark*.

Obſ. No, Honeſt *Country-man*, I deſire nothing for my ſelf. I have my End if I am in any wiſe an Inſtrument of Promoting the Elections of ſuch Men, as are *Like-minded* with *Her Majeſty* and Her *Honeſt, Peaceful Subjects*. But thoſe that chuſe *Stock-Jobbers*, muſt expect to have their *Rights Stock-Jobb'd* away in the *Houſe of Commons*. I ſhall conclude with one Word of Advice to the *Worſhipful Stock-Jobber, viz.* That he will be Graciouſly pleaſed the Day of the Election to allow *Soap* enough to clean his *Hands* and *Face* before he mounts the Spot of *Honour* at St. *Margarets-Hill*.

Country-m. Maſter, there is ſtill a great Noiſe about the *Tackers*; the *Jacks* and *High-Flyers*, the *Nonjurors* and *Profligate Clergymen* cry 'em up, as the *True Engliſhmen* cry 'em down. But pray is *Tacking* of *Bills* Lawful? Is it *Parliamentary*? Is it according to our *Conſtitution*?

Obſ. What has been done in *Parliament* is a *Precedent*, but *Precedents* are not always founded on *Juſtice*; and we find, by Experience, that a *Houſe of Commons* may Act after an *Unparliamentary Manner*, ſo that we muſt have Recourſe to former

former Proceedings and the Opinions of others before us, who are Dead and gone, and never concerned in this new *Cavil* about the *Tack*.

In doing of this I shall confine my self to the *Authorities* of such who were *Indisputably* of the Church of *England*. Our *High-Flyers* at this Day, admitting of no *Authorities* but their own, and not so much as those, when they are Consistent with *Right Reason*, and against their *Interest*.

King *Charles* the Second was acknowledged by all the *High-Church* to be the *Lords Anointed*, and Head of the Church of *England*. And therefore I shall begin with His *Royal Authority*, by Quoting part of his Speech delivered from the *Throne* to both *Houses of Parliament*, on the Twenty third of *May*, 1678.

One thing more I have to add, and that is to let you know, that I will never more suffer the Courses *and* Method *of Passing Laws to be chang'd; and that if several Matters shall ever again be* Tacked *together in one Bill, that Bill shall certainly be lost, let the Importance of it be never so great.*

I shall only Remark from the Opinion of this Prince, that the *High-Flyers* of that Day were of the same *Stamp*, and persued the same *Ends* as these do now. King *Charles* the Second was a Prince of a *Peaceable Spirit*, and had *High-Flying Parliaments*, which made him purchase the *Money Bills* of them, by passing Acts against *Protestant-Dissenters*; and these Laws being design'd to be followed by others, more *Cruel* and *Sanguinary*, which the King being unwilling to Pass, the Trick of *Tacking* came on, no more to the *Honour* of *High-Church* than at present.

The next *Authority* I shall give you, is that of the Lord Chancellor *Finch*, in his Speech delivered to both *Houses of Parliament* the same Day.

He says. *The King has so far Express'd himself this Day, that 'tis Evident that the Manner of your Proceedings is to him as considerable as the Matter, and that he will not accept a good Bill, how valuable soever it may be, unless it comes to him in the Old and Decent Method of Parliament.*

The late way of Tacking *together several* Independent *and* Incoherent *Matters in one Bill, seems to alter the whole* Frame *and* Constitution *of Parliaments, and consequently of the Government it self.*

It takes away the Kings Negative Voice *in a manner, and forces him to take all or none; when sometimes one part of the Bill may be as Dangerous for the Kingdom, as the other is Necessary.*

It takes away the Negative Voice *of the Peers too by the same Consequence, and Disinherits the Lords of that* Honour *they were Born to, the Liberty of* Debating *and* Judging *what is Good for the Kingdom.*

It looks like a kind of Defamation *of the Government, and seems to suppose that the* King *and* House of Lords *to be so ill Affected to the Publick, that a Good Bill cannot carry it self thro' by the Strength of its own* Reason *and* Justice, *unless it be help'd forward by being* Tack'd *to another Bill that will be Favoured.*

It does at last give up the greatest share of the Legislature *to the* Commons, *and by Consequence the chief Power of* Judging *what Laws are best for the Kingdom.*

And yet it is a Priviledge that may be made use of against the Commons, *as well as by them; for if this Method hold, what can hinder the* Lords, *at any time, from taking Advantage of a Bill, very Grateful to the* Commons, *and much desired by them to* Tack *a New Clause to it of some Foreign Nature, which shall not be altogether so Grateful, nor so much desired, and then the* Commons *must take all or none too?*

Thus every good Bill shall be Dearly bought at last; and one chief End of calling Parliaments, the making of Good Laws *shall be wholly frustrated and disappointed, and all this by departing from that Method which the Wisdom of our Ancestors prescrib'd, on purpose to Prevent and Exclude such Inconveniencies.*

These Innovations the King resolves to Abolish, and hath Commanded me to say to you, State super vias Antiquas.

I think these are very good Reasons against *Tacking*, and the better because from a *Chancellour* that never meant any good to *England*, so that the *Tackers* are, as it were Condem'd from their own Mouth. To make use of the Arguments of an *Enemy* is the fairest way of Reasoning: A Man, many times, may retort to better Purpose, and do more Execution than he can by *Solid Reasons* and *Argument*; For the Genius of *Englishmen* is now so *Corrupt*, that the *Man* is more minded than the *Matter* or *Reason* of his Discourse.

Country-m. Master, These *Tackers* are numerous of all Religions; some are *Latitudinarians*, some *Papists*, some *High-Church*, some *No-Church*; we have *English Tackers*, *Irish-Tackers*, *Scots Tackers*, and *French Tackers*. The strangest of all the rest, I hear Marshal *Tallard* is for the *Tackers*.

Obs. Without doubt he's for his Masters Friends, as are all those that made a Difference betwixt the two Houses, on purpose to prevent the Passing of the *Money Bills*, in order to carry on a War against *France*. But, prithee, how comes *Tallard* to trouble his head about our *Elections*? I don't think he's *Naturaliz'd*.

Country-m. No, Master, but he Loves the *Tackers* dearly, and turn'd off his *Sadler* because he would note Vote for the *Tackers*; he *Tack'd* very well at *Hogsdon*, and I can guess what *Tack* he is upon in *England*, but if my *Country Judgment* might take place, I would *Tack* him and the rest of 'em into a Closer Place as they do our Sailors in *France*, till such time as they shall enter themselves as Foot Soldiers under the Duke of *Marlborough*.

Obs. Prithee Learn a little more of this Story against another time.

Country-m. I will so, Master, and let us take one Drachm of *Nectar* and *Ambrosia*, the *Protestant Cordial*, to all the *Good Protestants* that oppose the *Tackers*.

Advertisements.

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